

nuclear problem under control and eventually eliminate it, but also to try to do what we can to promote an ultimate reconciliation, an end to the conflict. If that could happen, then the world would be a much safer place—the whole world, and certainly the people in Northern Asia.

NOTE: The exchange began at approximately 2 a.m. at Elmendorf Air Force Base. The press release issued by the Office of the Press Secretary did not include the complete opening question. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Kim Yong-sam of South Korea in Cheju
April 16, 1996

Q. Good morning, sir.

The President. Good morning. Did you get some sleep?

Q. A little bit. Mr. President, do you think the start of these four-way talks could really bring peace to this peninsula? Are you encouraged that these four-way talks could lead to peace? What about the situation along the border between Israel and Lebanon; anything the United States can do to stop that fighting?

The President. We're going to answer questions, you know, after our meeting; but we're working very hard on that and we've been at it for a couple of days now, and we're doing the best we can.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:04 a.m. in the garden at the Shilla Hotel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Exchange With Reporters During Discussions With President Kim in Cheju
April 16, 1996

Korean Peace Process

Q. President Kim, are you excited about the opportunity for a breakthrough with the dialog between North and South Korea?

President Kim. Yes. I think that there is a possibility.

Q. And do you welcome the fact that China might participate as well?

President Kim. Well, we'll have a chance to talk about it later at the press conference.

President's Visit

Q. Mr. President, was it as pretty down on the beach as it looked from up above?

President Clinton. Yes. I felt like a honeymooner again.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:20 a.m. in the garden at the Shilla Hotel. President Kim spoke in Korean, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

The President's News Conference With President Kim in Cheju
April 16, 1996

President Kim. Ladies and gentlemen of the press, on behalf of the people of the Republic of Korea, I would again like to extend a heartfelt welcome to President and Mrs. Bill Clinton who are visiting our country today.

President Clinton and I have held five summit meetings since I became President of the Republic of Korea in 1993, and have worked together to steadily develop Korea-U.S. relations into a mature partnership. President Clinton's visit to Korea today will further strengthen the solid alliance between our two countries. It also offers an opportunity to reaffirm the strategic importance of our bilateral relations for the Asia-Pacific era in the 21st century.

President Clinton and I held indepth discussions for about an hour on the overall situation on the Korean Peninsula, including the recent North Korean provocations in the truce village of Panmunjom. President Clinton and I shared serious concern over the fact that North Korean authorities have recently tried to unilaterally undermine the armistice agreement and violated the agreement through military maneuvering in the joint security area. We agreed on the great importance of maintaining vigilance and strong joint Korea-U.S. defense posture in order to cope with any possible provocations swiftly and firmly. We have also agreed that